EDUCATION PAYS

PERKY IS A river otter from Honduras who occupies one of the three pools in the courtyard in front of the Academy's buildings in Golden Gate Park. Perky is a lady, and she has a fur coat which she wouldn't feel properly dressed without. She is known as the educated otter because she stays at the Academy twenty-four hours a day, and nobody can be around the Academy even a small fraction of that time without getting an education.

One of the things Perky has learned is how to win friends and influence people. She quickly discovered that if she would sit up and look alert and expectant, things would come her way. Sometimes the things are fish, one of which she is contentedly munching in the picture on page 1. But people who visit the Academy do not always carry fish in their pockets, unless they are going to see Dr. Chapman in the Department of Ichthyology; so they toss pennies into the pool.

Perky does not like pennies as well as fish, but she takes things as they come. She will catch or dive for the coins and then play with them. Frequently she will hold a penny in her forepaws and swim up and down the pool doing barrel-rolls and loops. She will play just as happily with bottle caps or marbles; but visitors don't know this and besides are hardly more likely to have these in their pockets than fish, so her take continues to be largely cash. One week she made $1.78, and was written up in the press as "the otter with a bank account."

The Director is reported to be waiting for a suitable opportunity to ask her for a small contribution to the Building Fund.

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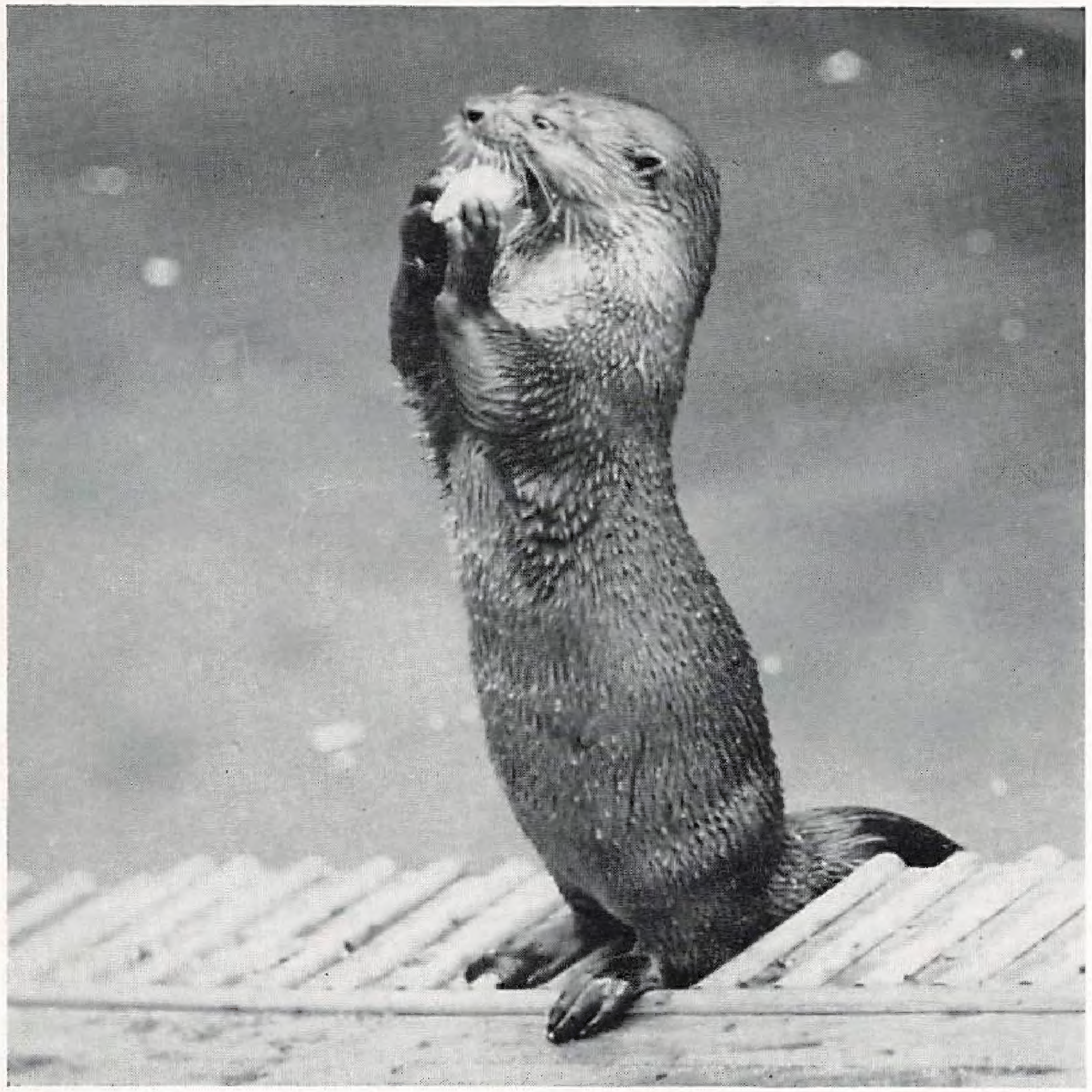

PERKY, THE EDUCATED OTTER

(See Page 4)

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July Announcement

The regular July meeting of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in Room 214, Simson African Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, July 17, 1946, at 2:30 o'clock. The speaker will be Miss Grace I. Crowe, Assistant in the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the California Academy of Sciences, who will take as her subject:

Significance of the Songs and Calls of Birds

Miss Crowe will discuss the question of why birds sing, the evolution of bird voices, the daily and seasonal cycle of song, the development of individual song patterns, and the significance of the sounds made by birds for the individual and the group. Her discussion will be illustrated with phonographic recordings of the songs of various native birds.

The public is cordially invited.

Academy Expedition Returns from Arizona

Mr. Joseph Slevin, Curator of the Department of Herpetology in the California Academy of Sciences, has returned from a collecting trip in southern Arizona, on which he was accompanied by Mr. Wallace Wood of the Steinhart Aquarium staff. Principal objective of the expedition was the securing of specimens of a Mexican mountain frog, *Rana tarahumarae*, whose range extends into southern Arizona. This species was previously lacking in the Academy's collection of western American frogs. Slevin and Wood packed into the Pajarita Mountains west of Nogales and secured enough specimens for the Academy's purposes.

They also collected numerous lizards and snakes, several turtles, and some fish. Among their more interesting specimens are some desert minnows which live in canyon pools with no outlet, in constant danger of having the pool disappear during a prolonged dry spell. How these small fishes got into the pools and how they manage to survive in the southwestern desert are problems one well may ponder.

Noisy Fishes in the Steinhart Aquarium

Most people regard fishes as silent creatures and suppose that the only sound they make is the splash one hears on still lakes as a fish leaps from the water and plops back in. As a matter of fact, however, a good many fishes make sounds of one sort or another, and some of those residing in the Steinhart Aquarium are quite noisy.

The Midshipmen in tank 3 produce sounds by grinding their teeth and a strategically located air-bladder acts as a resonater. Buffalo Sculpin can be relied on to make protesting sounds every time they are taken out of the water. They too are teeth-grinders.

The Croakers in tank 10 are, as their name implies, one of the most widely known of noise-producing fishes. Their sounds are made by twitching muscles connected with the air-bladder, giving an effect like rubbing one's fingers over a tight balloon.

Trigger fish, of which there are three species in the Steinhart Aquarium, are the noisiest of the coral reef fish. In their native habitat danger will send them scurrying into some hole or crevice, but instead of remaining quietly in their place of concealment they make so much noise that native fishermen find them easy to locate.

During the war the sounds made by fishes became a serious study, because submarine listening devices recorded a bewildering medley of strange noises, and it was highly important to learn to recognize the sounds made by fishes and to distinguish them from sounds of more dangerous import.

New Exhibits

At the May meetivg of the Academy, Dr. E. S. Ross of the Academy's Department of Entomology gave a highly interesting lecture on "The Mangyans of Mindoro," illustrated with photographs taken during his stay on that island while in charge of malaria survey work with the army of invasion. Dr. Ross' fine photographs of the home life of the Mangyan people have been enlarged and placed on exhibit in the Academy's Museum, providing an unusual pictorial record of the life and customs of this remote and primitive tribe.

Another interesting exhibit is a chart of ancient life, illustrated with small models of a primitive amphibian, an armoured fish, a dinosaur, a pterosaur, and other prehistoric animals. This exhibit was prepared by two student members of the Academy. The modeling was done by Caroline Naus, who says she has been interested in paleontology since she was seven years old. She was assisted in preparing the exhibit by Ernest Conrad, another student member with a keen interest in paleontology.